



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH  
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March 14, 2001

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members  
FROM: Doreen Garcia, Senior Health Policy Advisor  
RE: Status of Review Regarding Regulatory Standards for Scoliosis Screening

**Background and Summary:**

According to 28A.210 RCW, the Board has statutory authority for setting procedures and standards for scoliosis screening in conjunction with the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The Superintendent of Public Instruction must provide for and require scoliosis screening for each student at least three times between grades four and eleven. The Board defines the procedures and standards for scoliosis screening in WAC 246-762.

On May 10, 1999, the Washington State Board of Health filed a CR-101 announcing its intent to review WAC 246-762. The scoliosis screening rule specifies that children should be screened in school annually at grades five, seven and nine. The Department of Health (DOH) and the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) have been studying if and how these screenings are benefiting children. They are looking at the number and grades boys and girls are being screened.

Preliminary analysis indicates that it may be more beneficial to adjust the number of times and grades children are screened. Any change in the number of times children are screened would require a statutory change, not just a change in rule given the specificity of the statute.

**Recommended Board Action:**

The Board may wish to consider, amend, and approve the following statement:

*Based on review of WAC 246-762, the Washington State Board of Health will consider whether to propose a change to RCW 28A.210.220 to make the statute less specific regarding the number of times children should be screened and the grades that screening should occur.*